

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 35-38 and 40-51 are pending in the present application. Claims 35-37 and 40-43 are amended; and Claims 26, 30-32, 34 and 39 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found at least at Figs. 2-6 and their corresponding disclosure in the originally filed specification. No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 26, 30-32 and 34-43 are rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Birger et al. (U.S. 2009/0006850, herein Birger); and Claims 44-51 are allowed.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects Claims 26, 30-32 and 34-43 under 35 U.S. C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Birger. In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 35, 37 and 40-43 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 35, for example, is amended to recite a session management apparatus that can connect to a first apparatus and a second apparatus over a network, the first apparatus and the second apparatus exchanging *Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) messages* via the session management apparatus to establish a connection, the session management apparatus comprising:

a part configured to perform mutual authentication with the first apparatus to establish a first encrypted communication channel between the session management apparatus and the first apparatus, and to store a name of the first apparatus and identification information of the first encrypted communication channel in a storage device, wherein *the name of the first apparatus is obtained from a REGISTER message sent by the first apparatus*, and the name of the first apparatus and the identification information are associated with each other;

a part configured to establish a second encrypted communication channel between the session management apparatus and the second apparatus based on mutual authentication with the second apparatus;
a part configured to *receive an INVITE message* including a name of the first apparatus via the first encrypted communication channel;
a part configured to determine whether *the name included in the INVITE message is correct by comparing the name included in the INVITE message with the name, obtained from the REGISTER message*, that is stored in the storage device and that is associated with the identification information of the first encrypted communication channel; and
a part configured to send *the INVITE message* to the second apparatus via the second encrypted communication channel.

Independent Claims 40 and 42, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of amended independent Claims 35, 40 and 42.

Turning to the applied reference, Birger describes a computer architecture for enterprise device applications that provides a real-time bi-directional communication layer for device communication.

Birger, however, fails to teach or suggest using INVITE and REGISTER Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) compliant messages to establish a connection between a first apparatus and a second apparatus via a session management apparatus, as claimed.

In rejecting the claimed features directed to “storing the name of the first apparatus ...” and “receiving a message including a name of the first apparatus ...” p. 8 of the Office Action relies on ¶ [0174] of Birger. This cited portion of Birger, along with a number of following paragraphs, describe that an identity identifier 710 may be assigned to uniquely identify an identity across enterprises.

Birger, however, fails to teach or suggest that this identifier is “*obtained from a REGISTER message sent by the first apparatus*” or that the session management apparatus includes a part configured to “*receive an INVITE message* including a name of the first apparatus via the first encrypted communication channel”, as recited in amended independent Claims 35, 40 and 42.

In rejecting the claimed features directed to “determining whether the name included in the message is correct by comparing the name included in the message with the name ...”, p. 8 of the Office Action relies on ¶ [0250] of Birger. This cited portion of Birger describes that once an authentication service 1010 receives an identity identifier of a session acceptor 1025, the authentication service 1010 may proceed as though the identity identifier were received directly in the authentication response message.

At no point, however, does Birger disclose a session management apparatus that determines “whether *the name included in the INVITE message is correct by comparing the name included in the INVITE message with the name, obtained from the REGISTER message*, that is stored in the storage device ...”, as recited in amended independent Claims 35, 40 and 42.

In rejecting the claimed features directed to sending the message to the second apparatus ...” after the determining, p. 9 of the Office Action relies on ¶ [0257] of Birger. This cited portion of Birger, however, describes that the session initiator 1005 sends a session credential request message to the authentication service 1010, that may include information specific to the session initiator.

Birger, however, fails to disclose that the same INVITE message that is received from the first apparatus (i.e. the initiator), is forwarded along to the second apparatus after the determination, as recited in independent Claims 35, 40 and 42. More specifically, Birger fails to teach or suggest a session management apparatus that “sends *the INVITE message* to the second apparatus ...”

Moreover, in rejecting now-canceled Claim 39, which explicitly recited that “the message is based on a Session Initiation Protocol”, p. 10 of the Office Action relies on ¶ [0241] of Birger. This cited portion of Birger, however, describes a “session establishment

process”, but fails to teach or suggest that SIP is used in any way the session establishment process.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 35 (and Claim 36, which depends therefrom), 40 and 42 under 35 U.S. C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 37, for example, is amended to recite, in part, a session management apparatus that can connect to a first apparatus and a second apparatus over a network, the first apparatus and the second apparatus exchanging Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) messages via the session management apparatus to establish a connection, the session management apparatus comprising:

... a part configured to receive, from the first apparatus via the first encrypted communication channel, *an INVITE message* including a first header indicating reliability of a route between the first apparatus and the session management apparatus; and
a part configured to *add a second header* indicating reliability of a route between the session management apparatus and the second apparatus *to the INVITE message, and to send the INVITE message to the second apparatus* via the second encrypted communication channel,
wherein, when the session management apparatus receives, *from another session management apparatus, an INVITE message to which headers indicating reliability of routes are added, the session management apparatus adds an additional header indicating reliability of a route between the session management apparatus and a next apparatus to the INVITE message, and sends the INVITE message to the next apparatus.*

Independent Claims 41 and 43, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of amended independent Claims 37, 41 and 43.

As noted above, each of independent Claims 37, 41 and 43 are amended to recite that an INVITE Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) compliant message is used to establish a connection between a first apparatus and a second apparatus via a session management apparatus. As noted above, Birger fails to teach or suggest the use of SIP messages,

whatsoever, thus the arguments presented above with respect to this feature also apply to each of amended independent Claims 37, 41 and 43.

These claims are also amended to recite that the session management apparatus receives *an INVITE message* from the first apparatus, *adds a second header indicating a reliability of a route between the session management apparatus and the second apparatus to the INVITE message, and sends the INVITE message to the second apparatus.*

In rejecting the claimed features directed to adding the second header, p. 10 of the Office Action relies on ¶ [0275] of Birger, which merely describes that session policy information may include a Quality of Service (QoS) or Quality of Performance (QoP) level necessary for the session. These parameters, therefore, merely reflect the level of service required to conduct the session and do not *indicate a reliability of a route between the session management apparatus and the second apparatus*. Moreover, these parameters are not added to a header of a received INVITE message received from the first apparatus and sent to the second apparatus, as claimed.

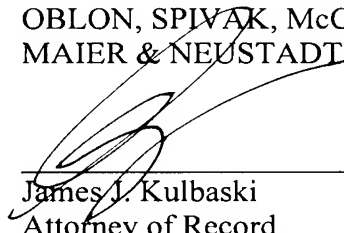
Thus, it also follows that Birger fails to teach or suggest that “when the session management apparatus receives, *from another session management apparatus, an INVITE message to which headers indicating reliability of routes are added, the session management apparatus adds an additional header indicating reliability of a route between the session management apparatus and a next apparatus to the INVITE message, and sends the INVITE message to the next apparatus*”, as recited in amended independent Claims 37, 41 and 43

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 37 (and Claim 38, which depends therefrom), 41 and 43 under 35 U.S. C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 35-38 and 40-51 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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